

REMARKS

Claims 1, 14, and 15 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-15 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shanklin et al in view of Hooper. Shanklin teaches multiple sensors connected at an internetworking device for detecting unauthorized signatures to or from a local network. Hooper teaches a method of forwarding a network packet. Neither Shanklin nor Hooper teaches assigning the data packet “by using a static association of at least a portion of the hash value to the one of said plurality of processors” as amended in claim 1. Support for the amendment can be found without limitation on lines 3-13 on page 14 of the specification. The specification includes an embodiment that describes assigning packets from the same network connection to the same processor by using a static mapping of at least a portion of a hash value to the processor without performing a costly table lookup operation using the hash value. Paragraphs 24 and 43 of Hooper describe using a hash to perform a table lookup. Values associated with the hash in the table of Hooper can be dynamically modified, and hence the hash values of Hooper are used in a dynamic association and not a static association. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1 and are believed to allowable for the same reasons described above.

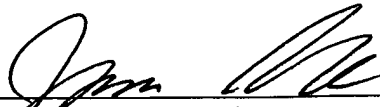
Like claim 1, amended claim 14 recites assigning the data packet “by using a static association of at least a portion of the hash value to the one of said plurality of processors.” Therefore claim 14 is believed to be allowable.

Like claim 1, amended claim 15 recites a driver configured to assign the data packet “by using a static association of at least a portion of the hash value to the one of said plurality of processors.” Therefore claim 15 is believed to be allowable.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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